

BA-1597

## Helmore, (Edgar Lucas House)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 06-23-2004***

BA 1597

c. 1845

Helmore

901 Greenspring Valley Road

Brooklandville, Md. 21022

private

Helmore is a large house of the Greek-revival period, circa 1845, unusual in its square proportions. This large stone house contains most of the original interior detailing. Two projecting stone foundations against the north foundation of the service wing appear to relate to former exterior chimneys. The house was built by a descendant of Captain John Cockey who was born in 1681. For over a century the property on which Helmore was built was part of the old Cockey homestead.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1597

b

X-890.750

Y-578.490

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAGI #0315972404

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

HELMORE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

901 Greenspring Valley Road

Eighth

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Brooklandville

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland 21022

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Edgar M. Lucas

Telephone #: 321-0779

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Green Spring Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Brooklandville

VICINITY OF

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: CWB, Jr. #969

Folio #: 137

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Towson, Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**HELMORE** is a two and one-half storey stone house, stuccoed, three bays square with a truncated pyramidal roof. Its principal facade is to the north and a two storey service wing extends to the west; of frame covered with stucco its stone foundation indicates two building periods, the joint falling between the easterly four bays and the westerly two. Two projecting stone foundations against the north foundation of the service wing appear to relate to former exterior chimneys; corresponding hearths are framed in the circular-sawn first floor framing. The main house measures approximately 45 feet square and it dates from the Greek-revival period ca. 1840-1850. The earlier easterly four bays of the service wing measure approximately 16½ by 37½ feet and all visible elements including the first floor framing and interior details date from the twentieth century but the proportions and chimney foundations suggest the possibility of earlier construction.

The truncated pyramidal roof with its three dormers in each facade was reconstructed in the early twentieth century. A pair of chimneys rises through the westerly slope near the top deck. Originally these were matched by another pair through the easterly slope; the northeast chimney has been removed in its entirety but the southeast chimney remains, with its fireplace, within the house.

A wide entrance hall is centered in the house, extending to the south approximately two-thirds the depth of the house. The principal staircase rises with intermediate landings in its own hall off the southwest corner of the center hall. A square room is north of the stair hall and west of the center hall. Formerly there were two rooms east of the center hall, one square matching its north-westerly counterpart and one smallish room in the center corresponding to the staircase; and a chimney rose between them. The dividing partition and chimney have been removed to create one large room east of the center hall. A large room is in the southeast corner of the house, its east-west length including the width of the center hall. Finally another square room is in the southwest corner and a secondary stair rises from it immediately west of the principal stair.

Except for the removal of the partition and chimney dividing the rooms east of the hall, most original interior detailing remains in place: two or eight panel doors with loose echinus mouldings and

partial raises; paneled window jambs; wide corner-block trim; mantels with Greek Doric columns supporting a pulvinated frieze; the principal stair with its moderately proportioned turned baluster-newel, round walnut rail and tapered round maple balusters; the secondary stair with its round rail and tapered square newels; and a plaster ornament in the ceiling of the center hall having radiating acanthus leaves around a lantern fixture which may also be contemporary with the house.

The second storey is similar but details are simpler as expected. Doors have six panels of the same profiles as below and many retain Carpenter or Tildesley Carpenter-patent locks. All details and finishes of the third storey date from the twentieth century reconstruction of the roof.

All visible details and finishes of the west wing date from the early twentieth century. The first storey contains a large kitchen with a housekeeper's living room at the west end; the second storey contains servants' rooms. The attic is finished and its structural members are not visible.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HELMORE is a large house of the Greek-revival period, ca. 1845, unusual in its square proportion. The truncated pyramidal roof and the simple porch date from the early twentieth century, seemingly relating the earlier house to the early twentieth century Colonial revival when these forms, including the square plan, were prevalent.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Thomas, Dawn F. and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 Vols. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 90

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.T.A. and Dawn F. Thomas

2-7-80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson, Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Helmore, a large early nineteenth century stone house, was built by a descendant of Captain John Cockey (b. 1681/1683, d. prior to 22 July 1747), the first of this large family to settle in the Green Spring Valley. For over a century the property on which Helmore was built--portions of Cockey's Trust and Helmore--was part of the old Cockey homestead known as Oakdene (Summerfield). But soon after the death of its owner, Joseph C. Cockey (1786-1831), the family estate was divided and sold.

According to later land records, Joseph's brother John had acquired 90 acres of the homeplace, perhaps as partial payment on a mortgage which he and brother William had held on Joseph's estate. It was on this land that Helmore was built, presumably by John Cockey between 1831 and 1841. An 1836 map of the Valley lists his name on the plot of land where Helmore stands, and an 1841 advertisement, offering the house for sale in settlement of a court case between John Cockey and George Hopkins *et al.*, mentioned that the house had "recently been erected."<sup>2</sup>

Samuel Brady, a former mayor of Baltimore City, bought the Helmore estate on 15 April 1842.<sup>3</sup> According to an 1841 newspaper advertisement, the first to describe this property, his Valley farm consisted of "a spacious dwelling house of stone about 45 feet square rough cast without, and finished within in the best and most modern manner. The house is on an eminence overlooking the farm. There is also a manager's house and the usual outbuildings, a quarry, and fruit and ornamental trees."<sup>4</sup>

A native of Delaware, Samuel Brady and his wife Ann Mary Proctor Stansbury raised eight children. One son, Jefferson, was the only family member to sympathize with the North during the Civil War. While serving in the Union Army, he was killed at Petersburg on 21 June 1864.

The 1870 U. S. Census listed the senior Brady as a farmer with real estate holdings valued at \$115,000.<sup>5</sup> With his death a year later at eighty-two, Helmore passed to his son Samuel.<sup>6</sup>

Samuel Brady, Jr., devoted his life to making Helmore a prosperous farm. His agricultural interests led him to the presidency of the Baltimore County Agricultural Society. Sharing his father's love of public affairs, he was for some years a Baltimore County commissioner and also a mayor of Baltimore City. In 1884 he represented his district in the state legislature.

Samuel died at Helmore in 1890 at the age of fifty-seven, and his estate passed to his family.<sup>7</sup> His wife Helen had been the daughter of Upton Slingluff who had once lived next door at Oakdene (Summerfield). Brady's son Upton Slingluff Brady gave up his career as a civil engineer to manage his father's Valley farm.

This Brady, as a trustee appointed in a court case between himself as complainant and his brother S. Proctor Brady as defendant, sold Helmore to Jacob A. Ulman in 1902.<sup>8</sup> Ulman was already well-known by Green Spring Valley residents--he was one of the five Elkridge Hunt Club members who, in 1894, had proposed the running of the now world-reknown Maryland Hunt Cup. An ardent horseman and hunter, he became active in the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club and formed a close association with the much respected Redmond C. Stewart of Cliffholme.

It was Ulman, president of his family's whiskey distilling firm, who made the only addition to Helmore. By adding a wing to accommodate a kitchen and servants' quarters, <sup>9</sup> he increased the size of the house to twenty-one rooms, nearly all of them with fireplaces.

In 1934 Jacob A. Ulman and his wife Katharine (Cary) sold Helmore and its 90 acres to the Suburban Finance Corporation, which in turn sold it to Edgar M. Lucas the following year.<sup>10</sup> Soon after acquiring the property, the new owner set about remodeling the house."

In addition to his new Valley estate, which became a horse breeding farm, Edgar Lucas owns another horse farm, which he also calls Helmore, in Howard County. Established in the electrical contracting business, Lucas is the great, great grandson of John Merryman, a member of a well-known Baltimore County family.



## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), WG #177/545, Baltimore.
- <sup>2</sup> Petitions for New Roads, 1827-1849, 2 February 1836, original documents no. 8424 (1), Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland; Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser (BACDA), 15 April 1841.
- <sup>3</sup> BCLR, TK #319/23, Baltimore.
- <sup>4</sup> BACDA, 15 April 1841.
- <sup>5</sup> United States Census for Baltimore County, District Three, 1870, folio 123, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland
- <sup>6</sup> BCLR, NMB #260/82, Towson.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>9</sup> "'Helmore': Green Spring Valley Home of Mr. Jacob A. Ulman," Baltimore American, 6 August 1905.
- <sup>10</sup> BCLR, CWB, Jr., #939/210, and CWB, Jr., #969/137, Towson.
- <sup>11</sup> Interview at Helmore with Mr. Edgar M. Lucas by Dawn F. Thomas, 17 October 1972.





# 1597 G.S.V.H.D.  
Helmore - E. Lucas  
fr. N.  
L . Eaton - 4/80  
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